

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-11 AEC-11 AID-20 CEA-02

CIAE-00 CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 FEA-02 FPC-01 H-03

INR-10 INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 OMB-01 PM-07 RSC-01

SAM-01 SCI-06 SPC-03 SS-20 STR-08 TRSE-00 PA-04

USIA-15 PRS-01 DRC-01 /173 W
----- 127014

P 180708Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7794

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA PRIORITY

AMCONSUL HONG KONG PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L RANGOON 0708

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG BM

SUDPECT: OFFSHORE OIL DISCOVERED

REF: RANGOON 0638

1. MOC EIGHTH TEST WELL SPUDDED FEB 23 STRUCK OIL AND GAS LAST WEEK. ALTHOUGH DETAILS NOT KNOWN, READING AND BATES OFFICIAL TOLD EMBOFF THAT IT "VERY GOOD WELL." GUB HAS NOT PUBLICIZED STRIKE AND APPARENTLY INTENDS TO KEEP SEMI-SECRET FOR A WHILE. PRESS DID, HOWEVER, FRONT PAGE ON MARCH 18 PICTURE STORY OF NEW MINISTER FOR MINES, DR. NYI NYI, VISITING SITE (ALTHOUGH WITHOUT SPECIFYING REASON FOR VISIT). PRESS REPORTED DEPTH OF WELL 6275 FEET.

2. READING AND BATES SOURCES ALSO REPORT THAT AWARDING OF CONTRACTS WHICH GUB HAS BEEN NEGOTIATING WITH FOREIGN COMPANIES NOW "OFF FOR THE PRESENT." GUB INTENTIONS NOT CLEAR, BUT IT
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APPEARS THAT GUB MAY POSTPONE DECISION ON OFFSHORE CONTRACTS UNTIL

IT HAS BEEN ABLE TO EVALUATE SIGNIFICANCE OF STRIKE.

3. COMMENT: REPORTED POSTPONEMENT OF CONTRACT AWARDS MAY WELL REFLECT INDULGENCE OF DR. NYI NYI, WHO CLEARLY TAKING ACTIVE INTEREST IN HIS NEW DOMAIN. ALSO LIKELY HE WILL WIN IN SOME WAY INVOLVED (REFTEL). SUCCESS OF EIGHTH WELL MAY HAVE ENCOURAGED GUB TO HOPE THAT IT CAN NOW EXPLOIT OFFSHORE OIL WITHOUT INVOLVEMENT WITH MAJOR FOREIGN COMPANIES.

4. FOREGOING SHOULD NOT BE PASSED TO INTERESTED OIL COMPANIES UNTIL EMBASSY HAS INFORMATION FROM OTHER SOURCES.
OSBORN

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Message Attributes

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Disposition History: n/a
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30 JUN 2005

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